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A new genus of *Corixidae* (Hemip.).

By JAMES FRANCIS ABBOTT, Washington University,
St. Louis, Missouri.

(Plate XVIII)

PALMACORIXA new genus.

Elongate, with vermiculate semi-obsolete markings. Male palae thin, platelike, obliquely inserted, the height about one-half the greatest length, the upper margin parabolic, the stridulating "pegs" in two rows and reduced to the lower proximal corner of the inner surface. Large stridular area on femur. Female palae short cultrate, femur also apparently with a stridular area. No terminal palar spine in either sex. Male vertex tumid, face flat, hardly foveate, female face convex. Metathoracic wings aborted in both sexes. Male asymmetry and strigil dextral; fifth tergite entire, sixth divided. Perhaps related to *Arctocorisa* Walleng. but differs markedly in several particulars from any other genus hitherto described.

Palmacorixa gillettii new species.

Head pale yellow, vertex usually carinate, posterior angles rather acute and produced backward. Posterior margin emarginate. In-

terorbital space (posterior margin) about twice in the median length of the head in the male; one and a half times in the female. Inner margins of eyes parallel in facial aspect.

Pronotum lenticular, with a more or less definite median keel, rather strongly margined, the margin being marked by a narrow line of brown, the anterior line incised to correspond with the emargination of the head. Color, yellowish, paler at the sides, with eight to ten delicate broken and confluent lineations, some of the most posterior of which join the marginal line. Surface of pronotum polished, minutely rastrate; it requires a compound microscope to resolve the rastrations.

Tegmina polished, non-rastrate, light yellowish with brown markings. The latter are quite variable, usually not displaying the familiar cross-banded effect of the majority of the species in the family. Clavus more or less immaculate toward the inner angle as in *mercenaria* Say, the markings reduced to a more or less definite diagonal stripe following the direction of the corial suture. The inner edge of the clavus is margined with brown, and between this and the diagonal stripe mentioned are numerous lineations ranging from isolated flecks in some individuals to interlocking and connecting cross bars in others. Embolium immaculate, its inner edge strongly margined. Corium and membrane with vermiculate and inosculate brown markings, usually arranged in two rather indefinite longitudinal stripes. A dark fleck on the outer edge of the membrane.

Metathoracic wings aborted in both sexes to a rudiment which extends from thorax to about the level of the third abdominal segment. Strigil ovate, about 0.3 mm. long by 0.2 mm. wide, transversely placed, with 6-7 striae. Legs and entire under surface yellowish white.

Male palae very strongly compressed, plate like, the lower edge straight, the upper edge parabolic in outline; the surface covered with fine depressed spines. Toward the lower edge, next the tibial joint are found the "pegs" in two rows, 5-6 in the upper row, 9-10 in the lower. These two rows seem rather sharply differentiated from the rest of the spines covering the face of the pala, yet it would seem to be not impossible that the whole surface may function in stridulation. The lower edge of the pala is fringed with cilia but there is no terminal spine. Tibia globular, about one-fourth the length of the pala. Femur oblong, as long as the pala, its width about one-half its length. Stridular area large, consisting of numerous rows of minute spines. Female palae short cultrate, triangular in section, the length a little less than three times the greatest height. Tibia rounded oblong, about as wide as the pala, its length a little more than twice its width. Femur trapezoidal in shape with a distinct area of strong spines analogous to the stridular area in males.

Second leg: Spines about equal to tibia in length, the latter one-half the femur. Tarsus slightly shorter than tibia. Third legs: Femur and tibia subequal and about four-fifths the tarsus. Metaxyphus short, acute.

Length 6 mm., width across pronotum $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Described from three males and three females from Fort Collins, Colorado, collected in May and June by Prof. C. P. Gillette to whom the author is indebted for the specimens. Superficially the species resembles *calva* Say, with which it possibly has been confused. It is considerably larger than Say's species and structurally very different from any other Corixid with which the writer is familiar.

Explanation of Plate XVIII.

A. *Palmacorixa gillettii* n. gen. et sp. Male with one hemielytron removed to show the nature of the abdominal asymmetry, the strigil (s), and the rudimentary metathoracic wing. Other specimens show a rather more definite tegminal lineation. x12.

B. Male first leg (pala, tibia, and femur) showing the inner surface of the pala with the stridulating pegs and the stridular area on the femur. x55.

C. Female first leg (pala, tibia, and femur). x55.

Notes on *Pediculus vestimenti* Nietzsche, the Body Louse of Man.

By A. A. GIRAULT, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

The following fragmentary notes were derived from a visit to the Cook County Hospital for the Indigent Insane at Dunning, near Chicago, Illinois, and are published for their general interest.

Dr. F. B. Clarke, formerly medical superintendent of the hospital, and Mr. J. J. Davis, my colleague in economic entomology, were experimenting tentatively on fumigants with the object of finding one which was efficient both as an insecticide and germicide or disinfectant in order to obviate separate fumigations of entering patients' clothes. The common body louse was one of the insects used in the experiments and some eggs of this insect forming the contral lot of one of the experiments